18 Sept. 1966

Mr. Robert Komer
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Bob,

My head emerged briefly from the water after the Jacobson Committee deliberations on Roles and Missions ended a couple of weeks ago, and then I was immediately sucked under again by Lansdale's election work. With the election coming off--I hope--tomorrow (I've been doing liaison with Thang and his staff), I feel the time has arrived to recall to you a rather casual reference to possible consultations in Washington, made by you many months ago. I've been here a year now, and I feel I have various things I could usefully discuss, in the relaxed, reflective atmosphere of Washington.

Rufe Phillips left here yesterday bearing a thick envelope from me to you, which is something that should provide a good deal of food for discussion. Last week I sent Dick Holbrooke a couple of copies of a discursive part of that same paper--which I happen to have written--which provides something of an overview of the problems of RD. (Of course, I thought of a good many aspects of the problem not covered, as soon as that draft was finished by the typist).

The report of our study group, known to insiders as RAMJET (Roles and Missions Jacobson Evaluation Team), has met with considerable approval here--some very glowing--and with less opposition to specific recommendations than we anticipated. (But the official MACV comments aren't in yet). When all the comments are in, in the next day or two, we'll probably have a discussion session with Porter, and I'd like to arrange sessions with some of our critics, as well. What the Mission will then decide to do with the Report and recommendations, I don't yet know. I'd recommend that you officially request an ample supply of copies for Washington to look at, along with Mission comments.

All this--plus the elections, though my knowledge on that subject is patchy, since I came late to it--could be discussed in Washington; along with Where Do We Go From Here? I've been doing quite a bit of thinking --not reflected in these papers--on the latter subject, under two subheadings: a) <u>How</u> do you implement the reforms and changes recommended by RAMJET, and specifically, how is US influence to be brought to bear in the future; (b) what should be US/GVN objectives for the political development of SVN, following these elections?

Not incidentally, I want urgently to see my children, in Los Angeles. (I had hoped to get back somehowbefore they went back to school, but the election here intervened). In fact, if a consultation trip can be arranged,

I'd like to spend at least four or five days, preferably over a weekend, in Los Angeles with them on the way to Washington, if the orders could allow for a delay en route. (However, if you felt that your need for talks is urgent, I could forego that, and see them only on the way back. Actually, what I have to say isn't exactly hot scoop--most of it has been well recognized at levels just below those with decision-making authority for years, on the RD side--but on the other hand, you might want to be responding quickly to whatever comes from the Mission a propos the Jacobson recommendations, and I'm aware that peculiar crisis needs are always apt to arise).

I asked Rufe to raise this with you; I don't know whether you'll see him or this first. I also asked him, as a hedge, to give a call to Alain Enthoven and Fred Hoffman, who also had talked about consulting. I do hope it will be possible to work something out. I'm looking forward to talking with your cell, testing the atmosphere in Washington--and above all, I must say, seeing my kids.

Yours,